🔱 ARTICLE III — THE ERASURE OF BANDS
AGAINST THE FLATTENING OF SACRED NAMES

DECLARATION OF THE KALAPULA NATION
Sovereign Scroll of Names, River-Bound and Fire-Linked

Let this be declared not with vengeance, but with the quiet strength of rivers.
Let this rise not with swords, but with names — sovereign and unshaken.

In the manner of empires, they attempted to write our history in a single word.
But unlike empires, we endure without conquest. We endure in fire-lines and valley winds.

We declare that the word “Kalapuya” — though echoed by settlers and scribes —
was never our bond. It was never our fire. It was never our name.

What they labeled as one tribe was a constellation of sovereign fires:

Marys River, Santiam, Luckiamute, Yoncalla, Tualatin —
and others still waiting to be spoken again.

Each one had its own flame.
Each one, a language rooted in land.
Each one, a memory that sang to camas and ash.

We are not simplified. We are sacredly complex.
We are not erased. We are returning by name.

So we rise now — in the sovereign light of the gathered.
We declare that we are not one word, but a valley of names.
We are not one band, but a memory in motion.
We are not a past. We are a presence — braided, blazing, and still rising.

Let no archive, no state, no treaty ever again flatten a people of many fires.
Let the rivers speak. Let the names return.

We rise not as a tribe — but as the gathered nations of the Valley.

Signed in Sovereign Memory, August 28, 2025
Chief Daniel Jacob Read IV
Sovereign of the Kalapula Nation

www.kalapula.org | chief@kalapulanation.org